

Joint Transportation Committee Meeting - 28 Sep 2022

City staff: Diane Stokes, DPW; Adam Shulman, TP&T; Cara Seiderman, CDD; Susanne Rasmussen, CDD; Walter Goldberg, CDD

Pedestrian, Bicycle, Transit Committee members: Scott Kilcoyne, Mark Boswell, Sandy Goldberg, Eitan Normand, Brooke Williams, Guido Cuperus, John Ellersick, Peter Septoff, Robin Bonner, Pamela Yang, Melissa Dullea, Debby Galef, Amy Flax, Carola Voelker, Conor Henrie, Alison Harris, Anna Frebel, Adam Shulman

Presenters: Jess Caamano (Goulston Storrs), Tim Sullivan (Goulston Storrs), Scott Thornton (RDVA), Sarah Lemke (Ned Development), Bob Daylor (Tetrattech), Carl Frushour (IBI Group), Tyson Ross (Klein Felder), Rosie Jaswal (Toole Design), Christi Apicella (McMahon Associates), Chris Balerna (Klein Felder), Artie Bonney (Klein Felder), Natalie Raffol (McMahon Associates), John Twohig (Ned Development), Chris Jones (IBI Group), Brian Roessler (Elkus Manfredi)

Attendees:

Marlene Lundberg, Robert Mack, Clyde Lawrence, Gavin Lund, James Williamson, Michael Kenkema, Heather Hoffman, Marc Levy, Sheli Wortis, Mary Webb, Allison Crosbie, Christopher Cassa, Nate F

First Agenda Item: Harvard Square Bus Stops and Mass Ave 4 Diane Stokes of DPW presented proposal for Mass Ave 4 changes

- Brief background of project elements
- Currently in Concept Design phase of project

Rosie Jaswal of Toole Design presented more detailed illustrations of the concept Plympton Street to Dunster Street

- Design considerations for all users: pedestrians, cyclists, transit users, drivers
- Traffic analysis is underway
- One general purpose travel lane

Tyson Ross talked about utilities and underground infrastructure such as the MBTA tunnel and utilities close to the area. Test pits will need to be dug to precisely locate utilities

Church Street to Garden Street concept was shown. The final design to be completed late 2022.

Committee members expressed concerns and raised questions about additional traffic calming, suggesting greater use of raised crosswalks would be beneficial. Members also commented on crossing through the kiosk plaza, better signals when cross Mass Ave north of the kiosk onto Church Street and toward Flagstaff Park.

The Toole team is coordinating with the kiosk reconstruction project leaders.

Second Agenda Item: Lechmere Canal Park

John Twohig from New England Development and Chris Jones from the IBI group presented designs for renovation of the park. It includes renovating the Great Lawn, improved lighting, plantings, larger playground, improved accessibility, Gazebo restoration, and seating. The artwork will be refreshed. Bricks will be reset to reduce trip hazards. The bridge sidewalk will be repaired.

The proposal for the multi-use path surface is to use crushed stone dust with an organic stabilizer.

Committee members expressed strong objection of the stone dust due to durability, quality, and ability to withstand repeated snowplowing. In response to these concerns, the developer claimed the crunchy sound under one's foot is an important link to nature. Members pointed out the importance of this path as a critical connection to the riverfront.

Committee members highlighted the awkwardness of the turns for bicyclists entering and exiting the path at either end, and requesting softening the turns. Developers said they would look into these recommendations.